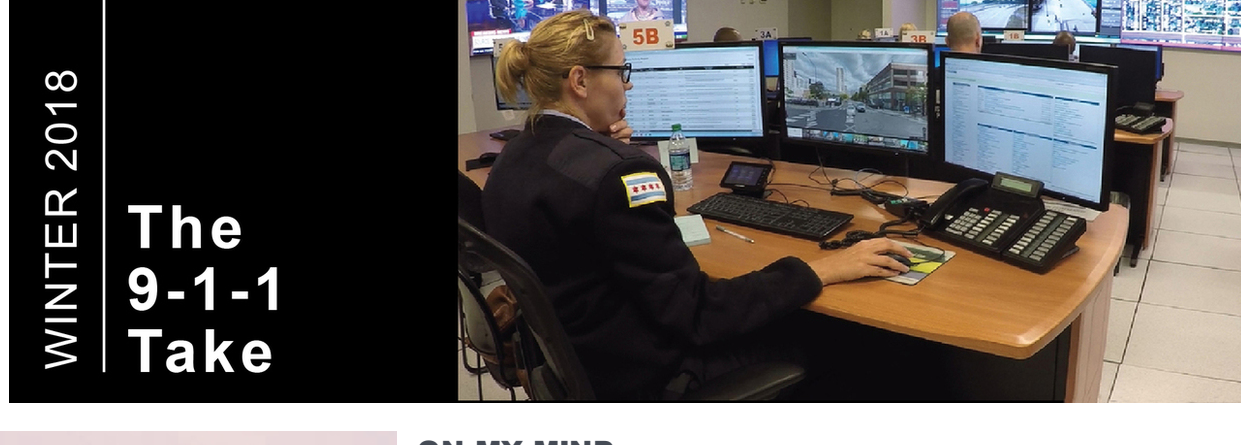




## FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY



**John Hunt**

### ON MY MIND

For the past 20 years, **Bill Hinkle** dedicated himself to enhancing emergency communications and making FirstNet a reality. He contributed immensely to the success of this network, and following his retirement, I hope that I am able to continue in this role with as much passion and determination as he did.

For more than 25 years, I have been a part of the 9-1-1 community, investing heavily in the field of emergency communications. I earned a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Technology from Eastern Michigan University, worked as a 9-1-1 product manager for AT&T and Regional Bell Companies, and worked as the NG9-1-1 Director for Telecommunications Systems. I also have extensive experience with 9-1-1 public policy, serving as the Governor of Michigan's appointee to the State 9-1-1 Committee for 25 consecutive years and as OnStar's 9-1-1 Public Policy Manager.

For the past three years, I have been a Senior Public Safety Advisor with the First Responder Network Authority, handling consultation and outreach activities for the states of Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, while maintaining my position as a long-term member of APCO and NENA.

Through these roles, I have been able to experience the growth of FirstNet firsthand. We have come a long way from conception to implementation, and with 2018 coming to a close, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the network's accomplishments and our first year with the first network dedicated for first responders.

Over the past year, FirstNet has expanded to urban and rural areas across the nation and signed up more than 3,600 public safety agencies, made more than 250,000 first responder connections, and supported nearly 100 emergency and event response efforts. Together with the public safety community, we were able to support recovery efforts during hurricanes Florence and Michael, extend coverage during the wildfires in California, and bolster communications during national presidential events.

The First Responder Network Authority also worked with AT&T to launch 72 dedicated network deployables in the last year that further boost communications during emergency situations. These mobile cell sites are housed in more than 40 locations across the United States and can be deployed within 14 hours at the request of FirstNet subscribers.

This year, FirstNet has added many new apps the [App Catalog for FirstNet](#). These apps, such as Intrepid Response, a real-time situational awareness solution, and Explore for ArcGIS, a lightweight mapping application, help further extend the capabilities of first responders and allow us to do our jobs more effectively.

These accomplishments are truly impressive for our first year, but they would not have happened without you – the dedicated first responders, public safety officials, and citizens that I call my colleagues. Your continued support for the network has allowed us to grow our community and spread the word about the network. We truly could not have done it without you.

As we look toward the future and the New Year, I hope you will join me in welcoming new technologies, advancements, and growth. I wish you all a happy holiday season and look forward to working with you next year.

*John Hunt is Senior Public Safety Advisor, First Responder Network Authority*

### WISHING PUBLIC SAFETY SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



### WHAT'S NEW AT FIRSTNET

#### FirstNet Quarterly Board Meeting

On December 13, the FirstNet Board met in Tysons, VA, for its Quarterly Board Meeting. During the meeting, the Board:

- Welcomed new Board Chair **Edward Horowitz**, Vice Chair **Richard Stanek**, five new Board Members and PSAC Chair **Todd Early**
- Heard updates from First Responder Network Authority Leadership and the Board Committees, including a recap of 2018 and a look ahead at 2019
- Voted on resolutions to thank outgoing Board members
- Held an annual Board Committee performance evaluations and charter reviews
- Received updates from the PSAC and AT&T
- Provided CEO and strategy updates, including a discussion of the goal, mission, vision and objectives of the FirstNet Strategic Plan.

A [press release](#) and [webcast of the meeting](#) are available on [FirstNet.gov](#).

#### Popular Science Magazine names FirstNet Best of What's New for 2018



In its Nov. 27 issue, *Popular Science Magazine* noted that ambulances, fire trucks, and police cruisers can turn on their sirens to cut through traffic in an emergency, but the first responders' phones can still get jammed up. A FirstNet SIM card gives them the equivalent of flashing lights on a mobile network. [Read the article.](#)

#### Smart Cities Dive names FirstNet 2018 Technology of the Year



**DIVE AWARDS**

### Technology of the Year: FirstNet

*Smart Cities Dive* named FirstNet 2018's Technology of the Year. The award recognizes the top disruptors and innovators in smart cities, including leaders, groups and companies that are transforming urban life and shaping the future. [Read more.](#)

#### It's coming: Mission-Critical Push to Talk

By the second half of 2019, [AT&T plans to have its solutions fully compliant](#) with 3GPP Mission-Critical Push-to-Talk (MCPTT) standards. Push to Talk (PTT) applications are another tool in the tool box for public safety. Read more about [how first responders are using FirstNet with PTT capabilities](#) at large events, like the Boston Marathon.

### WORTH A LOOK/LISTEN

#### FirstNet: Where 9-1-1 calls are always answered

During the catastrophic events of hurricanes Florence and Michael, Raleigh and Wake County, NC, Emergency Communications Center Director **Dominick Nutter** had one glimmer of hope. Despite the devastation and power outages, he knew that 9-1-1 calls would get through to the area's first responders. Raleigh-Wake County used both FirstNet and AT&T ESInet to provide an efficient flow of communications between callers, 9-1-1 call takers, and first responders during the hurricanes. [Read about their experiences.](#)

#### Public Safety First podcast: Early adopter discusses impact of FirstNet

In this episode of *Public Safety First*, host **Dave Buchanan** celebrates the one-year anniversary of Maryland opting in to FirstNet with Washington County's Sheriff **Doug Mullendore**.

They discuss the county and state's communication achievements over the past 12 months, and how Washington County incorporated FirstNet into their day-to-day policing. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

You can catch up on this or our other podcasts on [iTunes](#), [YouTube](#) or [SoundCloud](#).



### LET'S CATCH UP

The First Responder Network Authority plans to bring in the New Year by attending conferences, spreading the word about FirstNet, and meeting with public safety organizations to understand how we can better serve you. If you are planning to attend any of these conferences, please reach out to me.

- [APCO "Envision – the Future of Emergency Communications," Tampa, Jan. 15](#)
- [NENA NG9-1-1 Standards & Best Practices Conference, Orlando, Jan. 21-25](#)
- [NENA Goes to Washington in Washington, D.C., Feb. 12-15](#)

### ON THE HORIZON

In the coming year, we anticipate working together regarding the deployment of NG9-1-1 and determining how the system will interface with FirstNet. We will also listen to the upcoming challenges in the community, such as the need for better location accuracy in the field, so that we can better serve you. In the New Year, we plan on working with every one of you to ensure the network provides everything you need to do your job efficiently, communicate effectively, and save lives.

I look forward to seeing what the future holds and am excited to work with all of you. Happy holidays, and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

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